

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.	: To be assigned	Confirmation No.
Applicant	: Ellsworth et al.	
Filed	: Herewith	
Title	: BICYCLE SUSPENSION APPARATUS AND RELATED METHOD	
TC/A.U.	: NA	
Examiner	: NA	
Docket No.	: 10004.0001USD4	
Customer No.	: 31495	

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 1.97, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, these references have been considered in the parent applications (U.S. Application No. 09/623,210, filed August 29, 2000; U.S. Application No. 10/073,482, filed February 11, 2002; and U.S. Application No. 10/281,885, filed October 28, 2002; and U.S. Application No. 10/424,329, filed April 28, 2003) which are relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120, and therefore, copies of the references are not required.

These references are being submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b). No fee is due regarding this communication.

Applicant respectfully requests that the cited references be listed on the face of any patent issuing from this application.

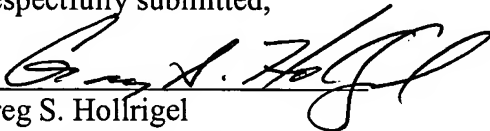
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This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, nor as an admission that the cited references are, or are considered to be, prior art or material to the patentability of the claims as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

No fee should be due in connection with the filing of this request. However, if any fee is deemed necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account 13-5135.

Date: 1/12/04

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449			Docket No.: 10004.0001USD4		Application No.: To be assigned		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)			Applicant: Ellsworth et al.				
			Filing Date: Herewith		Group Art Unit: NA		
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	494,803	4/4/1893	Cable			9/16/1892	
	603,418	5/3/1898	Adriance			11/20/1896	
	625,456	5/23/1899	Mills et al.			3/12/1897	
	3,917,313	11/4/1975	Smith et al.	280	284	12/17/1973	
	3,974,892	8/17/1976	Bolger	180	32	5/12/1975	
	4,058,181	11/15/1977	Buell	180	32	3/16/1976	
	4,505,492	3/19/1985	Tsunoda	280	284	7/14/1982	
	4,789,174	12/6/1988	Lawwill	280	284	4/27/1987	
	5,121,937	6/16/1992	Lawwill	280	284	12/13/1990	
	5,217,241	6/8/1993	Girvin	280	284	9/18/1990	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	2,774,966	8/2000	FR				X
	0 279 763	8/24/1988	EP				X
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
AA	A one page brochure from a bike shop advertising a VPP Outland frame. The advertisement appeared at page 7 in a Summer 1998 catalog. Applicants are unaware of any author for the brochure.						
AB	Five pages from an Internet web site having a URL of <a href="http://www.intensecycles.com">http://www.intensecycles.com</a> . The pages were printed on February 22, 1998.						
AC	Two pages from an Internet web site having a URL of <a href="http://www.gtbicycles.com">http://www.gtbicycles.com</a> . The pages were printed on February 22, 1998.						
AD	Four pages from an Internet web site having a URL of <a href="http://www.mountaincycle.com">http://www.mountaincycle.com</a> . The pages were printed on February 22, 1998.						
AE	Six pages from an Internet web site having a URL of <a href="http://www.schwinn.com">http://www.schwinn.com</a> . The pages were printed on February 22, 1998.						
AF	Six pages from an Internet web site having a URL of <a href="http://www.ventanausa.com">http://www.ventanausa.com</a> . The pages were printed on February 22, 1998.						
AG	One page entitled "A Werewolf in Santa Ana" appearing in the August, 1997 issue of Mountain Bike. No author is indicated.						
AH	European Supplementary Search Report for related European Application No. EP 99 91 2285						
<b>EXAMINER</b>			<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							

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<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	5,244,224	9/14/1993	Busby	280	284	5/14/1992	
	5,306,036	4/26/1994	Busby	280	284	7/2/1993	
	5,354,085	10/11/1994	Gally	280	285	12/20/1991	
	5,370,411	12/6/94	Takamiya et al.	280	284	10/13/1992	
	5,409,249	4/25/1995	Busby	280	284	9/15/1993	
	5,441,292	8/15/1995	Busby	280	284	4/13/1994	
	5,474,318	12/12/1995	Castellano	280	284	9/15/1993	
	5,509,679	4/23/1996	Leitner	280	284	9/9/1994	
	5,553,881	9/10/1996	Klassen et al.	280	284	1/25/1995	
	5,628,524	5/13/1997	Klassen et al.	280	284	11/15/1995	
	5,671,936	9/30/1997	Turner	280	284	8/10/1995	
	5,678,837	10/21/1997	Leitner	280	284	4/16/1996	
	5,957,473	9//28/1999	Lawwill	280	284	3/15/1996	
	6,056,307	5/2/2000	Busby	280	284	1/19/1999	
	6,102,421	8/15/2000	Lawwill	280	284	8/29/1997	
	6,161,858	12/19/2000	Tseng	280	281.1	6/14/1999	
	6,199,886	3/13/2001	Guenther	280	284	7/8/2000	
	6,378,885	4/30/2002	Ellsworth et al.	280	284	8/29/2000	
	6,471,230	10/29/2002	Ellsworth et al.	280	284	2/11/2002	
	6,595,538	7/22/2003	Ellsworth et al.	280	284	10/28/2002	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AI						
	AI						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
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